



University of
Nottingham
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ISSUE 4 2023

AMBITION

Supporters of student aspiration



Cost of living

Find out how your support is helping students
cope with the cost-of-living crisis.

Thank you for your continued and generous support for our students at the University of Nottingham.

As we welcome the return of longer and warmer days in the UK, people here and in countries across the globe continue to face economic challenges. In this edition of *Ambition* we focus on how your donations are supporting students during the current cost-of-living crisis, as well as how they in turn are helping others who are struggling to make ends meet.

I invite you to read the interview with Alice Aughton and Naima Begum — just two of the many students where your generous donations have funded scholarships to support them in their studies and ease financial concerns. In turn, our students are helping those in the community less fortunate than themselves and the profile of the university's Vets in the Community scheme shows how Veterinary students are providing free treatment for the pets of people who are homeless or in temporary accommodation.

Your generosity has given Nottingham's students the resources to succeed in their studies. What's more, I hope this edition demonstrates that your gift goes much further in enabling them to go on to support many other people who face challenging circumstances.

Your support is very much appreciated and needed now more than ever, and I am confident that the stories within *Ambition* show just what a difference your generosity helps to make. I would very much like to thank you in person at our next Supporter Reception, which we hope to hold in December. Details will be sent to you closer to the time.

Whether you have supported scholarships, Cascade, our Giving Day or left a gift in your Will, may I thank each and every one of you in our global community of Nottingham alumni for your kindness.



Professor Shearer West
President and Vice-Chancellor

“

I thank each and every one of you in our global community of Nottingham alumni for your kindness.”



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Editor's note

Welcome to Ambition – the magazine that celebrates the incredible difference you make by supporting our students.

While putting together this issue it was fantastic to speak to the students who benefit from your donations. For many of them, your support gives them the confidence they need to really push themselves – whether academically or outside of their studies – to get the most out of their time at university.

For scholarship students it isn't just financial support, it's emotional support too. As you'll read about in our cost-of-living report (page 10), times are tough for students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. But instead of worrying about how they're going to buy essential equipment for their course, the scholarships help to relieve the financial pressures they may otherwise face.

It is particularly inspiring to hear that because these students have seen first-hand the life-changing effects of your support, they're already thinking how they will pay it forward in the future, once they're able to.

Nottingham students are also going on to inspire others. In our Game Changers feature (page 22) we meet some incredible athletes who are representing Nottingham on the world stage and proving that sport is for everyone.

I hope you enjoy this latest issue as much as the team and I enjoyed creating it. Please don't hesitate to get in touch to let us know your thoughts and feedback – particularly about any topics you would like to see covered in future issues.



Rob Burman
Editor

Thank you for changing lives

130

Guiding Lights have pledged to leave a gift in their Will

Gifts in Wills ensure your legacy lives on at Nottingham, helping change lives now and in the future.



£1,005,326

raised to help improve the student experience

With your help, students in need of support can live their university life to the full.



844

alumni gave their time and skills to help students on the path to success

Mentors and coaches provide crucial educational and career advice to a new generation of graduates.



576

people donated to Nottingham Ambition Giving Day

After a successful first year, we're already planning our next Giving Day. Find out more on page 6.



£164,613

raised for student-led Cascade projects around the globe

You funded innovative and beneficial projects by students determined to make an impact.



£47,388

granted to a diverse mix of sports clubs and athletes

You helped Nottingham excel on the world stage, winning Commonwealth and European titles.



148

Nottingham Potential Scholarships started their university journey in 2022

You've helped relieve the financial pressures on talented individuals and unlock their potential.



646

students received financial support in 2021/22

The cost-of-living crisis created extra pressures and your donations offered much-needed support.



50

Nottingham Nightline is celebrating 50 years

Find out more about how your contributions to Giving Day are helping Nightline on page 16.



Giving Day

In June 2022, supporters took part in the very first Nottingham Ambition Giving Day and the response was astonishing. Across the event, 576 people raised more than £100,000 for scholarships, medical research, student mental health activities and Cascade projects.

Find out how your donations are making a difference.



Giving Day

The Ambition Giving Day was an opportunity for supporters around the globe to honour the University of Nottingham's accomplishments and achieve something amazing.

The day celebrated 100 years since the Trent Building foundation stone was laid. Since then, supporters like you have helped nurture individual aspiration, academic talent and global research.

University Park campus was buzzing with activity on the day and there were incentives to be unlocked by donors throughout. Students, societies and alumni all came together in true University of Nottingham spirit. You can get involved once again for our next Giving Day in November.

You showed what a difference a day can make.



Student mental health

University can be a stressful experience for some, with pressures to succeed sometimes feeling overwhelming.

One in three students will experience poor mental health at some point during their studies, particularly while preparing for exams. No student should have to suffer in silence.

Thanks to you, just over £14,000 was raised during the Giving Day to support mental health initiatives. Find out more about how you're helping student mental health in our Nightline interview on page 16.

Cascade

Your support will make inspirational ideas a reality through the Cascade grants programme. Students at Nottingham have brilliant ideas to help communities at home and around the world.

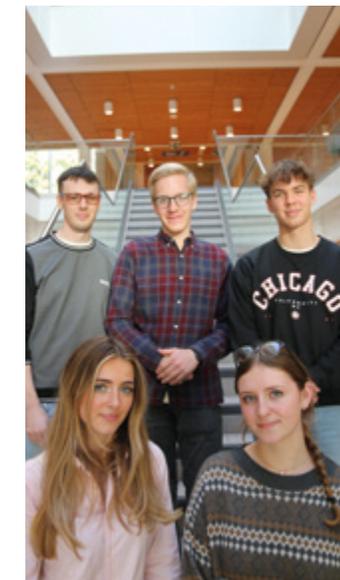
Your belief and backing has given Nottingham students the chance to use their skills to tackle issues affecting communities in need.

Together you raised £13,520 that will help innovative projects like the Flight Sim Project, which you can read about on page 28, to get off the ground.

Thank you for enhancing the student experience.

Scholarships

All gifts to scholarships - small and large - help bright, determined students to achieve more than they ever thought possible. Your donations raised a commendable £69,800, which will allow 70 more students to say yes to their university dream. In these most challenging of times, students will be extremely grateful for the way in which you have supported scholarships during the Giving Day. You can read more about how scholarships are helping students cope with the cost-of-living crisis on page 10.



Donor Wall



During the Giving Day, supporters shared some of their reasons for getting involved.

“

For all those from disadvantaged backgrounds who follow in my footsteps, take inspiration: it can be done.

”

Martin Cooper

“The University of Nottingham was a great experience for me, and I hope that this helps others enjoy and benefit from some of the same opportunities that I had there.”

Jane Prior

“The University of Nottingham gave me much more than an education, it gave me a second chance.”

Hadiza Saeed

“Donation in memory of my nephew, a medical student recently at the University of Nottingham. I welcome initiatives to help students with their mental health.”

Ruth Harris

“Delighted to be able to support research at the university that started my career.”

Michael Sadler

Medical research



“We are working on innovative new treatments, so that children can live full and healthy lives.”

Tim Ritzmann



Thanks to your donations to medical research during the Giving Day, the University of Nottingham can continue its ground-breaking work in the fight against children’s brain tumours.

For 25 years, our world-leading researchers and clinicians at the Children’s Brain Tumour Research Centre (CBTRC) have been working tirelessly to stop brain tumours from shattering the lives of children and their families.

“No child should have to suffer the devastating effects of a brain tumour,” researcher Tim Ritzmann says. “That’s why we are working on innovative new treatments, so that children can live full and healthy lives.”

You helped to raise more than £14,000, which will play a part in research that could change the world for us all.

Nottingham Ambition Giving Day 2023 takes place in November.

CBTRC’s research

1997

CBTRC is established as part of the university’s Golden Jubilee Development Campaign and is led by Professor David Walker

2002

Funding received for the Pathways Project (later known as the HeadSmart campaign)

2005

Professor Richard Grundy appointed as Professor of Paediatric Neuro Oncology & Cancer Biology, leading a team of researchers

2009

Achieves its 100th research publication

2011

HeadSmart campaign launched in association with The Brain Tumour Charity

2017

Mock MRI scanner funded, helping children with a range of conditions to overcome their anxiety and reduce need to use general anaesthetic

2018

Exceeds £10m in research grant income

2020

£2.9m state of the art intraoperative MRI scanner was officially unveiled at the Queen’s Medical Centre

2021

Cancer Research UK agrees to extend the recruitment onto the Ependymoma Clinical Trial to 2026

Gifts in Wills

Making a connection

Leaving a gift in your Will can help family members and students build new connections to Nottingham.

After Professor Richard Osborne left a gift in his Will, his niece Dr Sue Jones reflects on the impact.



When leaving a gift in your Will, not only does it help talented students achieve their dream of studying at university, it can also create new links between your family and the university that made such an impact on your life.

This was certainly the case for Dr Sue Jones, whose uncle, Professor Richard (Dick) Horsley Osborne (1925-2018), left a gift in his Will to encourage visiting fellowships from Eastern Europe. The first Osborne Fellowship was awarded in 2022.

“I was probably the closest to my uncle. He would often come to stay with us and show us slides of his trips around Eastern Europe,” explained Sue. “In the past my links to his interests were always a bit tenuous but this legacy has given me a very special connection to him and the university that I didn’t have before.”

Sue is pleased her uncle’s legacy will continue to make a positive influence on the university and wants to meet the recipients to strengthen her family’s links to Professor Osborne and Nottingham.

“The university was his life and it’s so nice to see him being remembered in this way. A whole new generation of students will continue to benefit from his passion.”

Noémi Ujházy, from Bulgaria, is the first recipient of the Osborne Fellowship.



“I previously missed a chance to study at Nottingham and when this opportunity came up I didn’t want to miss out again.

Nottingham has a tradition of co-operation with universities around Europe and this fellowship helps continue that legacy.

Since Brexit, it seems like our regions are getting further away in terms of co-operation and collaboration. Thanks to Professor Osborne the connection can continue to flourish.

I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to come here without this grant and although I’m only at the start, I can already see it will make a big difference.”



You too can help students follow their dreams by becoming a Guiding Light and leaving a gift in your Will.

Find out more by completing the enclosed form or visiting: bit.ly/beaguidinglight

Be a
Guiding Light

Cost of Living

With the cost-of-living crisis putting pressure on all our pockets, we hear how your generous donations are helping students cope with the financial burdens and funding student-led projects that impact the community.

In it together

Over the past year many of you may have felt the pinch of the cost-of-living crisis. But despite the increase in the price of food, utilities and travel, you've continued to offer kind and generous support to students who need it most – relieving the stress on not only them, but their family as well.

In a survey by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), half of students reported financial difficulties and 91% said that they were either somewhat or very worried about the rising cost of living. For students from disadvantaged backgrounds, this pressure is likely to be felt even more keenly. Particularly as they often don't have the safety net of extra financial support from their parents and may be forced to take on additional hours in part-time jobs just to make ends meet.

But for students like Alice Aughton, a part-time job simply wouldn't be possible due to a demanding university schedule. 25-year-old Alice is a mature first-year Midwifery student who can have up to a 40-hour week.

"It would have been almost impossible for me to have a part-time job and also study midwifery because when you're on a placement it is just like being a full-time midwife," explained Alice.

"It's not really safe because if you're on a labour ward and you're really tired from working in a pub or stacking shelves all night, then you could make mistakes and put people's lives at risk."

Thanks to your support, Alice can use her scholarship to buy important equipment for her course without having to get a part-time job or ask her mum for financial help.

"The scholarship means that I have one less thing to worry about. You don't want to be thinking about money and worrying about caring for people at the same time.

"You may not realise just how much your generosity can impact someone like me. Without this support, I wouldn't have been able to afford my rent and travel, which meant I would have needed to take out loans and end up in even more debt when I leave university. Just easing that burden is like a constant sigh of relief."



“

The scholarship means that people who have aspirations and ambitions to come to university, hoping to reach their goals, have that extra support from someone that doesn't even know them.

”

Naima Begum

For Alice, studying midwifery at Nottingham is a dream come true that you've helped to make possible. At one point she wasn't sure if she would be able to attend university because when she was 18, her dad was diagnosed with motor-neurone disease and Alice paused her university aspirations to help provide care for him. Sadly, a year later, his health declined and he passed away.

“I always knew that I would go into nursing or caring,” Alice told us, “but with my dad passing it set boundaries, as I kept thinking ‘it's not time yet’. But the longer I waited, the more I discovered a real interest in midwifery.

“I really wanted to come to Nottingham. It was a real ‘shoot for the stars’ opportunity, so when I heard I had been offered a place, I just couldn't believe it. I felt really lucky, not only to get a space on the course, but to also receive the scholarship as well.”

It isn't just students close to home who are feeling the effects of the cost-of-living crisis. Third-year Law student Naima Begum is currently

studying in Singapore and her scholarship is helping her remain independent while abroad.

“At times my mum will say ‘I want to help you’ because she worries a lot about me being in Singapore. But thanks to the scholarship, I can tell her that I'm fine. So, not only is the scholarship helping me, but it's helping her deal with the cost-of-living crisis at home as well. I feel more independent, without having to rely on her all the time.”

After seeing the impact of the scholarship, Naima is keen to pay your support forward later in life.

“The scholarship means that people who have aspirations and ambitions to come to university, hoping to reach their goals, have that extra support from someone that doesn't even know them. It's an amazing gift and a real vote of confidence.

“Your money has gone to someone who wants to do good and give back to others when I can. I know first-hand what a difference it can make, so I hope that one day I'll be in a position to help the next generation.”



Vets in the community

Cascade funding is helping some of the most vulnerable people in Nottingham.



Your donations to Cascade are not only giving Veterinary students at Nottingham vital practical experience, they're also providing essential pet care to those struggling to cope with the cost-of-living crisis.

Following Cascade funding, Vets in the Community were able to purchase a mobile treatment centre in order to hold weekly clinics at Forest Recreation Ground and King Edward Park. Each week they provide free veterinary care to homeless and vulnerably housed people in the Nottingham area.

“Having the trailer has definitely made a huge difference,” said Kerry Williams, Clinical Assistant Professor in Small Animal Practice. “Now we're able to go where the need is greatest and offer weekly sessions, whereas before people had to come and see us in the Big Issue office.

“Their pet is the only companion they have, so they want to make sure they're well looked after. The students really make a fuss of the dogs or cats. It gives the owners a

chance to chat and take their mind off other things they may be struggling with.”

Since the cost-of-living crisis has been putting pressure on household budgets, Vets in the Community have seen an increase in those using the service.

“We've definitely noticed it getting busier since the start of the crisis,” added Vicky Stanbridge, a fourth year Veterinary Medicine student. “Previously we would have around three or four clients, but now we regularly have more than double that.

“As well as coming for the treatments, we've had more people use the pet food bank and we provide that as much as we can. It's really lovely seeing the regular clients because they're so appreciative of the service we offer, and we've had some people say they wouldn't know what they would do without us. It does warm your heart because you know you're doing the right thing.”



Cost of Living

Project Period is a scheme that aims to provide free menstruation products for students and staff across the university.



free PERIODS

Thanks to your kind support, Project Period received Cascade funding, which has helped them to achieve their vision of driving positive change surrounding menstruation and menopause.

The scheme was started by Director of the university's Biodiversity Institute, Chris Denning and PhD student Kavita Raniga. It was first trialled in six bathrooms in the institute and has now expanded to seven different campuses.

"We believe that period products are essential and should be freely available," Kavita explains. "Menstruation affects so many people at the university's wellbeing and productivity. There is always more to do to ensure diversity and inclusivity. Making provision for period products for anyone who needs them is a small step in the right direction."

Now more than ever, with costs continually rising, it is essential to support students wherever possible. Chris says: "A lot of the students who will be struggling the most with the cost of living may well struggle to pay their heating bills at home. The libraries are going to form a refuge for them. If they've also got access to free sanitary products in

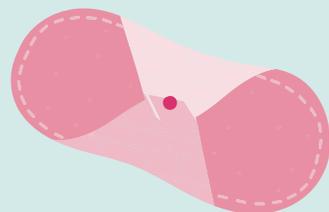
those spaces, then it makes it all the better for them."

Since July 2022, Project Period has distributed more than 45,000 products across the university's campuses.

Funding for the scheme ends in July this year and Chris expressed how important it is to continue to provide free products: "If we don't get funding, we can't carry on. If you're an advocate for Project Period and free menstruation supplies, this is something we would love you to get behind."

Chris continued: "Without Cascade's input, we wouldn't have had any choice but to just try and encourage people to set things up. Once we had some financial support, it put us on the vertical in terms of what we could achieve."

"From my point of view, period products should be in the exact same league as toilet paper and hand soap. Until we've got to that stage, I don't think we've been successful. There is absolutely a need to supply these products."



12%

of women in Britain are affected by period poverty

45,000

period products have been distributed so far

7

different campuses participating in Project Period



A helping hand



Professor Sarah Speight, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience, highlights how the university is providing additional support during the cost-of-living crisis.

"Students have been given little government support to cope with the current inflationary challenges facing our economy. It's not surprising that a survey conducted by an accommodation provider found 66% of students were 'extremely worried' about the cost-of-living crisis and a National Union of Students study found that 11% of students across the UK were using food banks.

At Nottingham we believe that financial circumstances shouldn't limit an individual's opportunity to access a world class education and, in response to the cost-of-living crisis, the university has compiled a package of financial and wellbeing support.

The support package includes increased funding for two support funds – the Student Hardship Fund and the Student Crisis Fund.

The Student Hardship Fund provides financial assistance towards living costs while the Student Crisis Fund offers interest-free loans to any student who is experiencing financial difficulties because of an unexpected change in their circumstances.

The package also includes clearer signposting to raise awareness of initiatives and resources to help keep costs down, including campus kitchen access, free shower facilities, more warm spaces so students can save on heating bills, and cheaper food options.

Combined with your generous support for scholarships, we're determined to make sure talented students can navigate their way through the crisis."



40,000

students nationwide withdrew from courses due to financial burdens in 2021/22

66%

of students said they were 'extremely worried' about the cost-of-living crisis

1 in 4

students nationwide have been forced to take on more debt to cope with the crisis

“

At Nottingham we believe that financial circumstances shouldn't limit an individual's opportunity to access a world class education.

”

Professor Sarah Speight

This year, Nightline is celebrating its 50th birthday. Thanks to your support, students have had a safe space to speak and be heard across Nottingham.



Nightline



1,755
calls a year

300
hours that
volunteers spent
speaking to
students during
exams

Going to university is often said to be the best years of your life but for many students the reality is a lot more challenging. It's a time of great change and stress, while in a new and unfamiliar place, distant from the support of friends and family. But thankfully a group of dedicated volunteers offers someone to listen when people need it most.

Nottingham Nightline is an anonymous, confidential, non-directive and non-judgemental listening and information service run by and for students at the University of Nottingham since its founding in 1973. They are there to listen, even throughout all hours of the night when things can seem the darkest and it's hardest to find other forms of support.

Currently there is an ongoing student mental health crisis, with a lack of resources available specifically to help students in times of need. The continuing consequences of the pandemic have led to a warped university experience for many, where people can often feel isolated from the social side of being a student. Pressures on counselling services provided by the university make appointments hard to access through long delays and waiting lists, but Nightline can continue to provide support when people feel most alone.

In 2022, Nottingham held its very first Giving Day, which provided an opportunity for donors to fund student mental health causes for the first time. Together, you raised nearly £14,000 that went directly to Nightline.

24
hours a day
service during
exam periods

84
new volunteers
this year

50
years of Nightline

"Our 50th birthday is an important occasion," says Nottingham Nightline Service Coordinator, Charlotte Payne. "We want to use it to celebrate all the work that has come before us and the impact Nottingham Nightline has had for so many students over that time.

"Your funding provides us with a great deal of stability for the service and prepares us for any additional challenges. We have been able to invest more in publicity materials to spread the word to students, to make them aware of us so they feel able to reach out and contact us when in a time of need."

During autumn term, Nightline volunteers worked incredibly hard to keep the phonedlines open for more than 900 hours. Volunteers received more than 550 calls during this period, totalling almost 300 hours spent talking to callers.

Nightline's principle focus is always on continuing to provide the service and allow all students at the university access to a listening ear at any hour of the night.

"We hope to make the most of our 50th anniversary year to boost the service and reach as many students as possible," added Charlotte. "We will also be continuing to train new active listening volunteers throughout the year and will be working hard to maintain a strong welfare network within the society to support each other."

Thank you for enabling Nightline to reach hundreds of students when they need it most.

Find out more:
nottinghamnightline.co.uk/contact

“
Your funding provides us with a great deal of stability for the service and prepares us for any additional challenges.
”



A friendship forged at Nottingham in the 1980s is paving the way for talented students to start their own university journey.

DIGGING DEEP

Graham Kill at Cotgrave Colliery



“**Y**ou need to start by unlocking the potential of these individuals, which gives them hope, because we’re living in a time where lots of young people don’t have hope.”

Sometimes in life, we meet people whose personal stories stay with us, regardless of the passage of time or miles travelled. People who are never forgotten, even when the bonds that once bound us together have long since faded.

For Graham Kill (Mining Engineering, 1987) and a group of his fellow Mining Engineering graduates, that special person was Brian Dawson. His commitment to overcome adversity and break through barriers 40 years ago has now inspired new scholarship support to help those following in his footsteps today.

The story starts in 1983 when Graham spent a year working at Cotgrave colliery – just south of Nottingham – before starting his Mining Engineering degree.

“I was completely dislocated,” said Graham. “Living away for the first time and then working in a very alien environment with people that spoke differently and had a very different social background.”

It was while working at the colliery that Graham met Brian and formed a friendship that would last throughout their time together at the colliery and university.

“Quite often things underground would break or stop working, so we would sit down, have a cup of tea and a chat. It was during one of these chats that Brian told me his story.”

Brian started working down the pit straight after leaving school. For those in Brian’s local community and among his family, this was the expected career path. But after several years working at the colliery, Brian realised he wanted to push himself and get a degree.

“He was a bright guy but never had the opportunity due to family and economic circumstances,” Graham told us. “He wanted a lot more and studied for his ONC (Ordinary National Certificate), then HNDs (Higher National Diploma), which took years. And this is all while he’s working full time underground on shifts – days, nights and afternoons in rotation. It was really tough.”

Despite the obstacles in his way, Brian achieved the qualifications he required and joined Graham as an undergraduate on the Mining Engineering course in 1984.

“There was a close bond between all of us on the course and Brian – aka Tigger – was a big part of that,” said Graham. “He was someone different because we were all youngsters, almost straight from school, but he had a house and a family.”

Once Graham graduated, he lost contact with Brian, who sadly passed away. During a reunion with his fellow Mining Engineering graduates, they decided they wanted to honour Brian’s memory and encourage more young people to take up engineering. This led Graham and a group of alumni to pull together and help fund scholarships, with Brian as the inspiration. Alongside Graham, the group includes Andy Lapworth, Richard Longstaff, Andy Gardner, Graham Makin and Matt Sutcliffe – who all met while studying Mining Engineering in the 1980s.

“Although the scholarship is a way to get people into the engineering profession, more importantly, we wanted to help others that don’t have things along the way to help them, or supportive families. Just like Brian,” added Graham.

“There are so many barriers that disadvantaged students face and some fall at the first hurdle because they want to come to university and have the skills, but just don’t have the funds to afford it”

For Graham and his friends, the scholarships they have funded offer an opportunity for individuals, like Brian, to overcome the financial challenges they encounter on their route to university.



Ben Koudougou
(Mechanical Engineering)

What’s more they provide them with financial support during their studies to experience university life to the full.

“If you support one person, they go on to support their family, or their children and there’s a knock-on effect that changes their life,” said Graham. “It’s very hard to think of how you’re going to solve world problems, like malaria or world hunger, but as an individual if you can focus on another individual and help to change their course, then that’s very profound.”

Graham and his fellow donors have already seen the first scholarship students start their degree at Nottingham. We spoke to Tamoor Aziz (Electrical Engineering) and Ben Koudougou (Mechanical Engineering), who are among four students that have benefitted from the scholarships so far.

“I wanted to come to university to learn more about electronics by getting a degree because it isn’t something I can learn about without further study,” explained

“**The scholarship provided me with the opportunity to focus on my studies, especially in recent times with rising costs.**”

”

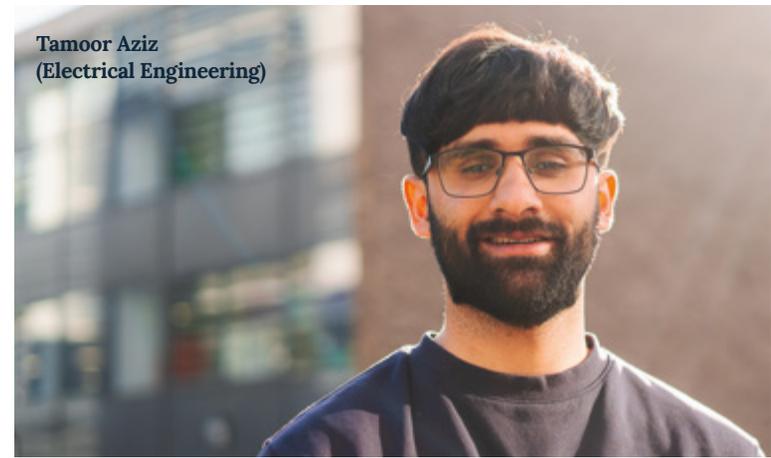
Ben Koudougou

Tamoor. “I knew instantly that getting the scholarship would make a big difference to me, so I was very grateful. I have purchased the equipment required for personal projects so that I can further build on my skills as an engineer.”

Meanwhile, for Ben Koudougou, the scholarship has allowed him to pursue other activities outside of his degree. “I was over the moon when I heard that I was going to receive the scholarship,” said Ben. “I was previously worrying about how I was going to balance working a part-time job with such a time-intensive degree. The scholarship provided me with the opportunity to focus on my studies, especially in recent times with the rising cost of living.

“I have also been able to take part in American Football for the university, which has membership and equipment fees. Last year we managed to reach the National Championship!”

Finally, Ben has a message to all those who donate to our scholarship programmes. “First of all, I would say a huge ‘thank you!’ It is great to know that alumni are looking out for current students like me, and that there are people out there, in our corner, who want to help us succeed.”



Tamoor Aziz
(Electrical Engineering)

“**I knew instantly that getting the scholarship would make a big difference to me.**”

”

Tamoor Aziz

Thank you to everyone that has supported students with a life-changing scholarship.

If you’re interested in helping a student say ‘yes’ to a place at Nottingham, please see the enclosed form or visit bit.ly/UoNScholarships



Back L-R: Graham Kill, Graham Hunter, Richard Bingley and Richard Longstaff. Front L-R: Mark Rookes, David Eastland, Professor Tom Atkinson (Head of Department), Peter Garood and Brian Dawson

Nottingham has an established tradition of elite athletes choosing to study with us. This year, you helped support a record number of student athletes to compete at the highest level during their studies. Our sports scholars participate in more than 25 different sports, with several representing their country at international junior and senior levels. There has been a 100% increase in inclusive fitness sessions delivered. Sport is for everyone and no barriers should stand in the way of our athletes, regardless of their differences.



25

The University of Nottingham's sports scholars compete across more than 25 different sports



330

UoN sport memberships issued following disability referrals

MEET THE CHANGERS

THE GAME

CHANGERS

Simran Kaur, Para-Athletics
(Chemistry MSci, 2nd year)

When I was a baby, doctors found a lump on my arm which developed into cancer, I had my arm amputated at four-years-old. Obviously, it's a big thing to happen but my disability hasn't ever held me back!

I played football for 10 years then picked up athletics in secondary school. I tore my ACL which stopped my football career, so I transitioned into athletics. In my first year competing, I made it into the GB Junior World Championship team and managed to medal in the 100 and 200 metres.

At Nottingham, I'm studying alongside training. Having support from the coaches, lifestyle advisors and the scholarship team is amazing.

I'm hoping to make a para-Olympic team in the future. Whether it is Paris or Los Angeles - that's something I aim for. In my academics, I want to focus on sustainable chemistry.

I'd like to say thank you to the donors of my scholarship for enabling me to continue training for my sport at the highest possible level. My scholarship is the reason I can compete and work towards my future goals.



Owen Say, Para-Swimmer
(Archaeology and Geography, 3rd year)

As a para-swimming scholar, I have a lot of access to the facilities at David Ross. Whether that's training with the swim team, strength and conditioning sessions or drop-in sessions I've had individually tailored to me.

The British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) competitions have been my highlights - both were very successful with two silvers and a gold in 2021, then two golds and a silver in 2022 and more on the way, hopefully! It's always good to see my training pay off as well as the great team atmosphere.

I think it is vital to get representation in sport out there. It shows the public who may be new to the world of para-sport that an impairment doesn't necessarily mean you're out for the count. Some of the best para-swimmers are faster than some able-bodied swimmers and,

while that comes with time and dedication, it shows that most people with a disability can apply themselves to a sport, whether that's at a social or a competitive level.

Right now, my focus is on academics, I'm wrapping up my third and final year soon and hoping to do a postgraduate degree at Nottingham, giving me one more year with the team and more opportunities to compete for the university. I'll continue training and, fingers crossed, I'm hoping to start competing more at an international level. In the future, I would like to go on to coach swimming using the skills I've learned while being mentored at the university.

The funding my scholarship has provided has not gone unnoticed; it is a huge privilege to be in the position I'm in. The donors have helped to fund the facilities, equipment and staff needed to help me reach this position. I will continue to make full use of it, so thank you very much.

Celebrating the Class of 72/73

We offer our thanks and gratitude to the Cricket Class of 72/73 for their support to the Cricket Club, supporting coaching and later going on to generously donate to cricket facility upgrades at Highfields Sports Ground. Special thanks to Mr Alan Budge (Industrial Economics, 1974), who has generously supported the university for over 30 years. Alan has been a valuable member of our Sports Board, sharing his professional skills and expertise with our staff.

Alice Heap, Cricket Ladies' President
(Politics and International Relations, 3rd year)

The support from donors has been amazing in terms of allowing us to continue prioritising inclusivity and accessibility within our club. Alumni donations have allowed us to buy new bats and other expensive equipment, meaning that anyone can take part without having to pay a huge fee for personal equipment or worry about storage.

Historically, cricket is an elitist sport, requiring a multitude of equipment and only provided in a handful of schools. We don't hold trials, meaning everyone is part of the same club and trains together. Last year, UNLCC had their best season ever finishing as the BUCS Midlands Tier 1 champions and beating Loughborough.

Our aim is to create a space where women can get active, meet people and have fun. Hopefully providing an opportunity for women who have never played to give cricket a go.



Alan Budge
(Industrial Economics, 1974)

"I give to Sport at the University of Nottingham because it helps in contributing fitness, skills, and personal development for students; together with extending friendships and networks that last a lifetime. I would encourage others to donate, help sustain and build on what exists today; to give a little bit back and help those who may otherwise struggle in realising their full potential during time at Nottingham."



How you've made a difference

As well as a reputation for academic excellence, we have a history of sporting success and are passionate about supporting promising athletes during their time at university.

In the BUCS 2021-2022 season, Nottingham ranked number two in sport and number one in team sport in the UK. Nottingham was the Times' Sports University of the Year 2021. There is space for all disciplines of sport at Nottingham.

Thanks to your donations, hundreds of students like Simran, Owen and Alice can access fantastic sports facilities and funding to make their dreams a reality.

Thank you for everything you do to help our rising sports stars and students discover the brilliant benefits that sport at Nottingham can bring.

If you've been inspired by the athletes' incredible commitment to sport and you would like to make a donation, please complete the form that accompanies this magazine or visit bit.ly/UoNSupportUs



We hear from four different donors about why they give to Nottingham.

WHY WE GIVE



Jane Rutherford (Medicine, 1990) and Mark Judd

Having supported our own daughter's entry into higher education we were aware of the challenges all young people faced when making this transition. We were also inspired by stories of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds overcoming these obstacles to forge successful careers. Being passionately of the view that equitable access to healthcare careers was vital for an equitable National Health Service, led us to work with Nottingham's Medicine and Health Sciences Scholarships Program. We set up the Charlotte Browne Scholarships, so that over the next few years, we can support aspiring doctors and health care professionals from disadvantaged backgrounds.



Richard Oblath (Metallurgy/Material Science, 1975)

My rationale in starting the Oblath International Enrichment Scholarships was to give six students a year, who could not afford to study abroad, the chance to experience life outside the UK. This reflects the incredible experiences I had during my industrial career living and working in five countries, plus working in an additional 80 countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia-Pacific, North and South America.



Rob Enticott (Economics and Econometrics, 1994)

As I reflected upon how grateful I was that others supported me financially at secondary school and university, and the career opportunities that I have been blessed to receive as a result of my Nottingham experience, I felt it was important for me to help others in a similar way. We have been pleased to support the scholarship program at Nottingham for the last five years and to have hopefully made a similar difference for others who needed the financial support.

Would you like to help make a difference?

Find out more: bit.ly/UoNScholarships or see the enclosed form



Gillian Berry

Miss Berry has a lifelong passion for music that was sparked by her parents. Her mother was a well-known BBC radio pianist, known as Auntie Ida, while her father was a composer and piano teacher who taught performers who went on to appear at the Proms. To commemorate the profound influence music has had on her life, earlier this year Miss Berry donated to the Department of Music at Nottingham to help inspire the next generation of musicians. The generous donation was used to buy a state-of-the-art Steinway Spirio piano; the only one of its kind at a UK university.

"To have the piano here is wonderful," said Miss Berry. "It means so much to me that this has happened, and I've been able to commemorate my parents, who were very special people."

Catherine Hocking, Head of Music at Lakeside Arts added: "It's such a generous gift, but one that is so meaningful. As a musician, Gillian understood the need of our students to have access to musical equipment of the highest calibre. It makes such a difference to students, in terms of them reaching their potential."

To see the piano being played and hear from the Department of Music about its future, visit nottingham.ac.uk/alumni

Student voices

How your support makes a real and lasting difference to our students.

“ The scholarship is life changing for me, as I come from a single parent and low-income household, I always knew I couldn't rely on family for money if needed. The funding took a huge burden off my mum's shoulders as I knew she was worried about not being able to provide for me.”

Lucy Smith
(Psychology, 1st year)

“ With the scholarship I don't need to sacrifice my mental health for university. I can fulfil my dreams and take care of myself during difficult times.”

Olivia Slater
(Spanish and Contemporary Chinese Studies, 1st year)

“ With your help, I can pursue a degree in Biochemistry with greater ease and motivation, and words cannot explain the mental relief you have provided me.”

Daren Sungalee
(Biochemistry, 1st year)

After receiving Cascade funding, Aerospace Engineering student Ben Payne is aiming to open the aviation industry to a more diverse audience.

Flying high



More than **100**

students signed up to Ben's offer of lessons

Third year Aerospace Engineering student Ben Payne has always loved flying. From the first time he stepped inside a glider at just 18 months old to entering gliding competitions at the age of 17, the high-life has never been far away. So, when Ben discovered there was a flight simulator in the Faculty of Engineering, he realised he had a unique opportunity to share this passion and inspire a new generation of aviation addicts.

"I expected it to be this really small thing, where a couple of people would come along, have an experience in the flight simulator and see what flying is all about," explained Ben.

However, the response to Ben's offer of lessons was incredible and more than 100 students signed up. Most importantly for Ben though, the students attending the training sessions were from a range of backgrounds.

"From the start I wanted to push for a more diverse mix of people," Ben told us. "Each session we've had different cultures and different genders. It's been great to see them using these sessions to potentially break into the industry, which has traditionally been male dominated."

Following your support to Cascade, Ben has been able to order multiple simulators and open the sessions to even more students or give attendees extra lessons.

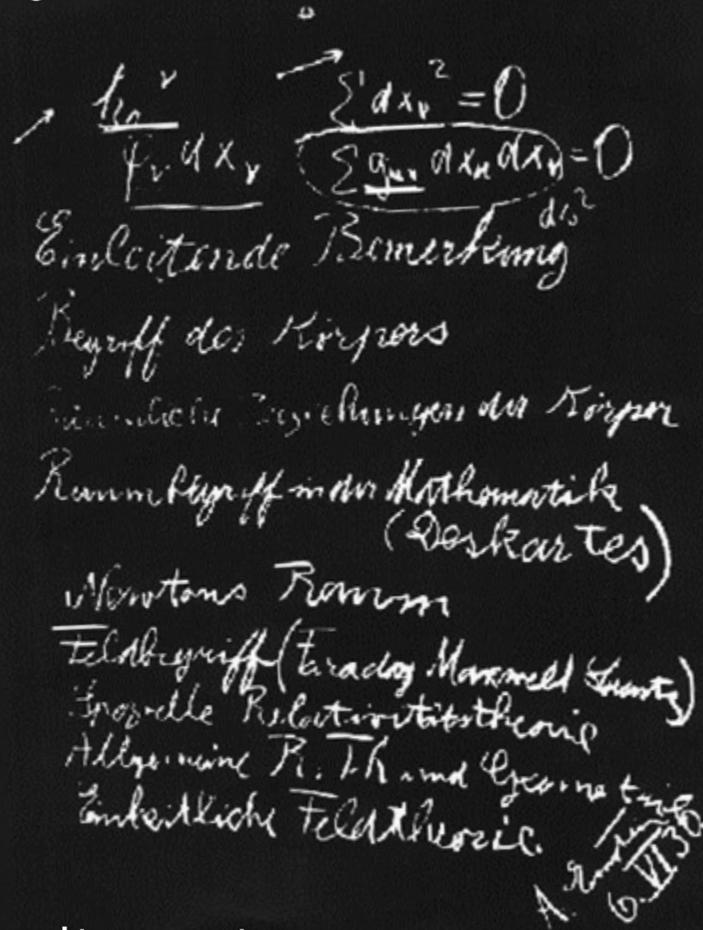
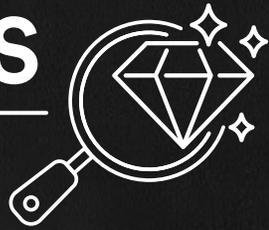
"Flying is very expensive and with the cost-of-living crisis, people are worrying about places to live and just heating their own home, which means that some people simply can't afford to try it out. Thanks to you, we can provide an opportunity to more people and give them the confidence to enter this industry once they finish university."

“ Thanks to you, we can provide an opportunity to more people and give them the confidence to enter this industry. **”**

”
Ben Payne



HIDDEN GEMS



Uncovering unusual treasures at the University of Nottingham.

On the 6 June 1930, Professor Albert Einstein visited the university to give a lecture.

Einstein wrote out his equations on a blackboard during his visit, he also signed the corner once he had finished. The board is now preserved within the university.

Another preserved blackboard exists in Oxford, but Nottingham's is the only signed example in existence.

50 years after Einstein's visit, the Vice-Chancellor received a letter from a student returning a piece of chalk that Einstein had used to write on the board, which he had taken after the talk. The chalk is now safely back in Nottingham and remains in the university's Manuscripts and Special Collections.

Have you seen the blackboard? Do you have a hidden gem that you'd like to share with us?

Let us know by emailing supportus@nottingham.ac.uk

You're helping to change lives

Thank you for all your generous support over the past year – no matter how large or small, every contribution makes a potentially life-changing difference. Here are some ways you can continue to be involved.



Leave a Gift in your Will

Each generation at Nottingham is connected to the next by an unbroken thread – a shared passion for learning, a desire to excel and to shape the world around us.

Once you have taken care of your loved ones, please consider leaving a gift to the university in your Will. You can help talented students from low-income backgrounds to succeed, contribute to world-changing research or help to protect the beautiful places that you loved, long into the future. By remembering the university in your Will today, you can make a difference tomorrow.

If you would like more information about leaving a gift in your Will please complete the enclosed form or visit: bit.ly/beaguidinglight



Support medical research

Help the University of Nottingham's ground-breaking medical research.

Whether it's stopping brain tumours from shattering the lives of children and their families or supporting pioneering work into beating breast cancer, researchers at the University of Nottingham are working tirelessly to help save and improve lives.

To aid this world-leading research, we work with the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre and the Nottingham Breast Cancer Research Centre, which are both based at the university.

To find out how you can offer support, just email: supportus@nottingham.ac.uk



Donate to Nottingham Potential Scholarships

A place at university can transform a young person's world.

But too many bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds find barriers are in their way.

We believe that talented students should not miss out on higher education because of where they come from or how much money they have. A scholarship could be the difference between lost potential and a future doctor, teacher or scientist.

But talent needs a catalyst. Donate today and you can help students from all backgrounds say 'yes' to their university dream.

To help support a student at Nottingham, see the enclosed form or visit: bit.ly/UoNScholarships



Become a volunteer

Share your skills and expertise by giving your time to our students and fellow alumni.

One of the greatest gifts we can give is to help others and here at Nottingham you can do something amazing to help our students and alumni as a volunteer.

Volunteering for the university is a great way for you to learn new skills, make professional connections and give back to the community.

We have short and long-term opportunities available throughout the year that you can be involved with. Register your interest to receive regular email updates or keep an eye on our latest roles and opportunities at: bit.ly/uonvolunteer



Thank you



**Your belief and backing turns aspirations
into a reality at Nottingham.**

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If you'd like to make a gift to Nottingham today, or update your details, please scan the QR code or complete the enclosed form.